

OCR

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/East Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Czechoslovak Medical Exchange Programs

DATE DISTR.

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

4 JUN 1959

50X1-HUM

DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Czechoslovak medical exchange programs.

50X1-HUM

22

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

STATE	#X ARMY	#X NAVY	X AIR	#X FBI	AEC						
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)											

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

REPORT

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 15 MAY 1959

SUBJECT Czechoslovak Medical Exchange Programs

NO. OF PAGES 9

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES: 50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CS COPY

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

50X1-HUM

Czechoslovak Medical Exchange Programs:Exchanges with the Soviet Union

50X1-HUM

In or about 1954, [redacted] Dr. (of Natural Sciences) TUCHEK (fnu), [redacted] recently returned from a year's graduate work in the Soviet Union. At the time [redacted] Vysokij, the official journal of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, had just published an article by the renowned Soviet physicist Pyotr Leonidovich KAPITSA, strongly criticizing the organization of scientific work in the USSR. Tucek agreed with the main points of the article. While expressing great admiration for Kapitza's own work, he indicated that Soviet physics teaching was generally mediocre.

Tucek was professionally disappointed with the results of his year in the Soviet Union, most of which, he implied, was spent listening to Marxist-Leninist dogma. Now that he was back in his own country, he said, he hoped to begin learning something about real scientific investigation.

50X1-HUM

Dr. Karel KACL, head of the First Institute of Medical Chemistry and a Socialist deputy to the Czechoslovak National Assembly, visited the USSR in or about 1955/56 as a member of a parliamentary delegation. Upon his return, he talked freely to his colleagues about his impressions of Soviet medical research facilities. The new Moscow University building, he said, had many offices and many courses in Marxism-Leninism but few laboratories and relatively unimportant facilities for experimental research. In so-called chemical research institutes in the Ukraine, KACL claimed to have seen ordinary kitchen tables functioning as workbenches and glass fruit jars being used as test tubes.

In the spring of 1956, a Soviet cancer researcher named SHABAD (fnu) made a tour of medical facilities in various parts of Czechoslovakia. While in Prague, he visited Charles University and called on Dr. Jan SULA, the chief of the Cancer Research Laboratory. He did not lecture or conduct research there, however.

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

-3-

Dr. Jiri DUCHON, a biochemist in the Faculty of Medicine, had to cancel plans which he had made to visit Poland sometime in the last half of 1958. Purpose of the trip was to work with a Professor (fnu) BARANOWSKI. Dr. (fnu) HALY, a mathematician at the Institute for Organization of Medical Work (Ústav pro organizaci lékařství), had also planned a trip to Poland in the last half of 1958.

50X1-HUM

Student Exchange

50X1-HUM

Except for the above-mentioned Dr. Tucek, [redacted] no instances of Czechoslovak students or candidates for degrees going abroad to study. In the Faculty of Medicine at Charles University in Prague, however, an estimated 10% of the students were foreigners.

In former years, the largest single group of foreign students were Koreans. Since the end of the Korean War, however, their numbers have decreased. More recently, there has been a substantial contingent of Albanians, with a sprinkling of Chinese, Sudanese, and Latin Americans.

[redacted] the majority of foreign students were poorly prepared academically and linguistically. The Albanians were a particularly difficult group in this respect, and the teaching staff was instructed to give them extra time and attention. It was almost impossible for a Korean or Albanian to be dismissed from the faculty for failing in his work. Some of them were allowed to repeat examinations three or four times, whereas the Czechoslovak students could repeat an examination normally once, and twice only by special permission.

50X1-HUM

Foreign students were distributed evenly throughout the classes of the Faculty of Medicine, so that they numbered two or three out of each group of from 18 to 20 students. Nevertheless, the foreigners tended to keep to themselves socially and did not mix much with the Czech and Slovak students. The latter were somewhat resentful of the favored treatment accorded other nationals, who not only received more time and attention from the faculty but also were assigned better housing accommodations. However, [redacted] never [redacted] any case of open friction between the various national groups.

50X1-HUM

At the start of the academic year 1957-58, an official directive warned all staff members of the Faculty of Medicine not to disturb any foreign student in the exercise of his religious beliefs. [redacted] any Czech or Slovak student found practicing his religion would be severely

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

50X1-HUM

condemned for his "anti-scientific attitude" and might even be dismissed from the faculty on the grounds that he was unworthy of becoming a doctor.

Visit by Charles University Doctors to Humboldt University

In September and October 1957 a group of ten medical doctors associated with Charles University in Prague paid a two-week visit to Humboldt University in East Berlin. [] this was the first instance of a group exchange of Faculty of Medicine personnel with any foreign country 50X1-HUM The project was entirely the result of personal initiative of a non-communist assistant in the First Institute of Medical Chemistry, Dr. (of Natural Sciences) CHUMELA (fm).

Chumela was an expert on instrumental analysis and was the principal adviser to the administrative heads of the Faculty of Medicine on questions concerning optical or other instruments. For this reason, he enjoyed excellent relations with the dean's office (dekanat) despite his lack of affiliation with the Party. Chumela regularly made one or more trips a year to East Berlin or to the Soviet zone in Bonn for the purpose of procuring scientific equipment.

As a favor to some of his non-communist friends and colleagues who were anxious to make a trip abroad, Chumela wrote to acquaintances on the Faculty of Medicine of Humboldt University and arranged for an invitation to be extended to a group of Charles University doctors to visit East Berlin. Then Chumela and Dr. Jiri BERNASEK, assistant of the Biological Institute, engaged in lengthy negotiations with Prague educational and governmental authorities in order to obtain their permission for the trip. Bernasek acted as tour leader for the group which eventually went to East Berlin; Chumela himself did not go.

Selection of participants in the delegation was made entirely on a personal basis by Chumela and Bernasek, and the motives of those concerned were for the most part recreational rather than professional. In addition to Bernasek, those originally chosen to make the trip were:

Dr. (fm) DVORAK, from the clinic of internal medicine of Professor (fm) CHUMELA
 Dr. (fm) DVORAKOVA, wife of Dr. Dvorak, above; a podiatrician on the staff of a Prague hospital
 Dr. (fm) HOFMAN, First Institute of Medical Chemistry
 Dr. Frantisek KORNALIK, Institute of Experimental Pathology
 Dr. Jaroslav KUBIS, Second Institute of Medical Chemistry
 Dr. (fm) KRAJ, Institute of Microbiology
 Dr. (fm) NOVOTNY, Institute of Physical Culture
 Dr. (fm) SACHSLOVA, Institute of Experimental Pathology
 Dr. (fm) VORSEK, First Institute of Medical Chemistry

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

Activities of the Czechoslovaks in Berlin

Although their trip was essentially a privately organized excursion, the Czechoslovak doctors were treated by the East Germans as though they were members of an official delegation. Customs and immigration formalities were held to a minimum, and all the group's living expenses were assumed by Humboldt University. With the exception of the Dvornaks, who were housed elsewhere, the visitors all lived together in a nurses' dormitory and took their meals in a student restaurant.

At the beginning of their visit, the Charles University personnel were entertained at a dinner given in their honor by the Humboldt University Faculty of Medicine. [redacted] the East Germans present, including some local Party and trade-union officials, appeared to be somewhat taken aback by the discovery that only a few of their Czechoslovak guests were communists. The visitors were also invited to ceremonies marking the start of the academic year at Humboldt University, but no special courtesies were shown them and no attention was drawn to their presence. 50X1-HUM

For the first four or five days of their two-week visit, the Czechoslovak doctors were completely occupied with inspections of the laboratories, clinics and research institutes of the university and of the East German Academy of Sciences in Berlin-Nach. They went everywhere in a body, closely escorted by their East German hosts, who seemed very apprehensive lest some of them might defect to West Berlin. In the evenings, the visitors were marched off together, still under surveillance, to see a movie or a theatrical performance.

Before the first week was up, the Czechoslovaks rebelled against this highly-organized existence. They arranged a meeting with their hosts at which they politely but firmly made it plain that they would stand for no more regimentation. They asked to be allowed to plan their own activities in accordance with their individual professional interests, and they demanded in addition that they be given some free time in which to go sightseeing by themselves. These requests were agreed to, and the following week the East Germans even relaxed to the extent of taking the visitors on a two or three-day holiday to the Baltic sea-coast.

Although the Czechoslovaks had said nothing to their hosts about visiting West Berlin, they lost no time in doing so once they had obtained permission to go sightseeing unescorted. Barnack, the tour leader, gave them directions on how to get to the Western sectors inconspicuously in small groups. With the possible exception of the communist Dvornaks, all the members of the group spent some time in West Berlin. Some of them had enough money to buy large amounts of consumer goods, but most of them purchased small souvenirs for their families.

One humorous incident occurred when Dr. Kornalik, whose hobby was the study of reptiles, paid a call on the director of the East Berlin zoo. As a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

50X1-HUM

result, he was written up in the East German press as a prominent Czech snake expert who had come to Berlin as a member of a delegation. The nature and composition of the delegation were not described, and [redacted] the visit of the Charles University doctors received no direct publicity.

50X1-HUM

Return Visit of East Germans

In February or March 1958, a group of nine East German medical personnel arrived in Prague by invitation of the Czechoslovak doctors who had been in Berlin the previous fall. The visitors were all staff members of the Char (Charles) Hospital attached to Humboldt University. Only four were medical doctors: Dr. Jacobert MILLER, Dr. JENISCH (fm), and a married couple [redacted] 50X1-HUM

The rest of the group consisted of two women laboratory technicians, two female nurses, and one woman political worker. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

The East Germans were met at the station by their Czechoslovak hosts, who thereafter assumed complete responsibility for their maintenance. The Charles University doctors boarded the visitors in their own homes or in hotels while they were inspecting medical facilities in Prague, and later took them to the High Tatras Mountains for an entire week of hiking and sightseeing. Neither Charles University nor the Czechoslovak government contributed so much as a crown toward these expenses.

In addition to attending the Medical Ball (Medicky Ples), an important Prague social event, the East Germans were also given a modest reception by the dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The dean, an active communist, spoke in vague generalities about the desirability of further scientific exchanges. When the visitors returned from the High Tatras, a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of future visits, on an organized reciprocal basis, between personnel of the medical faculties of the two universities.

The participants in the meeting were the East German group, led by Dr. Miller; their Czechoslovak hosts, led by Dr. Bernasek; and three or four leading communists from the Charles University Party organization. [redacted]

Conclusion and Implementation of Exchange Agreement

50X1-HUM

The meeting resulted in a quasi-official agreement that there should be substantial future exchanges of medical personnel between Charles University and Humboldt University, with nurses and technicians to be included as well as

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-7-

50X1-HUM

physicians. Nothing was said about medical students or candidates for degrees. The proposed exchanges were to be conducted on either an individual or a group basis, and were to last from one to two months in the case of a doctor, longer in the case of a nurse. The first group exchanges were projected for the fall of 1958.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] the level of exchanges decided upon at the meeting was higher than either the interest or the facilities at the respective institutions would support. In fact, [redacted] there was little evidence of activity in implementing the agreement.

[redacted] the East Germans were doing little because of lack of interest on their part. The Czechoslovaks were interested but were handicapped by official apathy and red tape.

50X1-HUM

One of the first individual exchanges to be organized pursuant to the exchange agreement was arranged [redacted] Dr. Miller. During the visit of the East German group to Prague in February-March 1958, Dr. Miller had become interested in the work of the Charles University Neurological Clinic.

50X1-HUM

Dr. Miller returned to Prague in June and remained for a month.

The East German doctor seemed satisfied with the quality of the work being done at the Neurological Clinic, but he was poorly impressed with the obsolete and inadequate physical facilities. [redacted] Miller was particularly annoyed to find that so much of the technical equipment in Czechoslovakia's leading medical school was old UNRRA material from the immediate postwar period.

50X1-HUM

Official Policy

50X1-HUM

The source reported that the Charles University authorities seemed to have very little interest in implementing the medical exchange agreement with Humboldt University. A new RGE committee called the "foreign commission" (zahranicni komise)¹ was created for the avowed purpose of coordinating scientific exchanges

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-8-

within the Faculty of Medicine.

At about the same time, a circular was sent from the dean's office to all institutes announcing that the Ministry of Education would support exchange visits between Charles University and Humboldt University personnel. The term "trip part" in this case was a mere figure of speech. No provision for payment of expenses from official funds was ever made, and, all Faculty of Medicine staff members traveling abroad either individually or in groups continued, as before, to defray all costs of the trip from their own meager resources.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

Apart from such empty gestures, the university and Communist Party authorities took no steps to stimulate further exchanges, the initiative for which remained in private hands. the principal motive for seeking to arrange scientific exchanges is the desire of Czechoslovaks to travel abroad, and that professional considerations are usually secondary. The official travel agency CEZOK schedules tours to various other Eastern European countries, but these are always heavily oversubscribed and exorbitantly expensive.

50X1-HUM

Applicants for CEZOK tours are intensively screened to eliminate potential defectors, and many are rejected. This is an additional incentive to promoting an exchange agreement with a colleague in a foreign country, since one's trip can be represented to the authorities as having a scientific or educational character.

applications for foreign trips by members of Czechoslovak institutions of higher learning are numerous.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

Administrative Arrangements

50X1-HUM

Procedures for obtaining permission to travel abroad are extremely time-consuming and cumbersome. the entire process took three months

After being scrutinized by virtually every official in the Faculty of Medicine and the university administration, applications were referred to the Ministry of Education. Here, they were examined by a commission headed by a Dr. FISER (fau) which determined the educational advantage of the proposed exchange.

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-9-

50X1-HUM

If approved, an application was next referred to the Ministry of Education's "passport department" (*passportnyi otdel*) which conducted the necessary liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The passport department assembled the applicant's dossier, including a considerable number of documents not previously required, and took care of obtaining the traveler's passport, foreign visa, and political clearance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. During this stage, which as of the spring of 1958 required from six to nine weeks for completion, the applicant's inquiries were handled by a Ministry of Education official named *BAJIK* (*байик*).

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL